IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus capable of communication with an external unit connected thereto, comprising:

a connection unit for connecting to the external unit;

a ~~first control unit~~ USB device controller connectable with the external unit via said connection unit for controlling communication between the connected external unit and said information processing apparatus;

a ~~second control unit~~ USB host controller connectable with the external unit via said connection unit for controlling communication between the connected external unit and said information processing apparatus; and

a switching unit for selecting said ~~first control unit~~ USB device controller or said ~~second control unit~~ USB host controller as a controller [[unit]] connected with the external unit via said connection unit, for communication between the connected external unit and said information processing apparatus.

2. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said switching unit further comprises:

a determination unit for determining the type of the connected external unit; and

a selection unit for selecting said ~~first control unit~~ USB device controller or said ~~second control unit~~ USB host controller as said controller [[unit]] connected with the external unit, for controlling the communication between the external unit and said information processing apparatus, in correspondence with the determined type of the external unit.

3. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, ~~wherein said first control unit is a device controller, and~~

wherein if said determination unit determines that the external unit is a USB host unit in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, said selection unit selects said ~~first control unit~~ USB device controller, so as to connect said ~~first control unit~~ USB device controller with the external unit.

4. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said connection unit is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein if a B type connector is connected with said connection unit, said determination unit determines that the external unit is ~~said~~ the USB host unit.

5. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, ~~wherein said second control unit is a host controller, and~~

wherein if said determination unit determines that the external unit is a USB device unit in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, said

selection unit selects said ~~second control unit~~ USB host controller, so as to connect said ~~second control unit~~ USB host controller with the external unit.

6. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said connection unit is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein if an A type connector is connected with said connection unit, said determination unit determines that the external unit is ~~said~~ the USB device unit.

7. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

a use status determination unit for determining a use status of said ~~first control unit~~ USB device controller and said ~~second control unit~~ USB host controller; and

a warning unit for, if said use status determination unit determines that said ~~first control unit~~ USB device controller or said ~~second control unit~~ USB hosts controller is in use, and said controller[[unit]], selected from said [[first]] USB device controller and ~~second control unit~~ USB host controller in correspondence with the type of the external unit determined by said determination unit and connected with the external unit, is in use, giving a warning to an operator of said information processing apparatus,

wherein said selection unit selects said controller [[unit]] in use as said controller [[unit]] connected with the external unit.

8. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein if said use status determination unit determines that said controller [[unit]] in use ~~has become not~~ is no longer in use, said selection unit selects said controller [[unit]] that has been in use as said controller [[unit]] connected with the external unit.

9. (currently amended): A control method for an information processing apparatus capable of communication with an external unit connected thereto via a connection unit, comprising:

a [[first]] device control step of controlling, using a ~~first control unit~~ USB device controller connectable with the external unit via the connection unit, communication between the connected external unit and the information processing apparatus;

a ~~second~~ host control step of controlling, using a ~~second control unit~~ USB host controller connectable with the external unit via the connection unit, communication between the connected external unit and the information processing apparatus; and

a switching step of selecting execution of said [[first]] device control step or execution of said ~~second~~ host control step as a control step of controlling communication between the connected external unit and the information processing apparatus.

10. (currently amended): The control method according to claim 9, wherein said switching step further comprises a determination step of determining the type of the connected external unit, and includes selecting execution of said [[first]] device

control step or execution of said ~~second~~ host control step as said control step for controlling the communication between the external unit and the information processing apparatus, in correspondence with the determined type of the external unit.

11. (currently amended): The control method according to claim 10, ~~wherein said first control step is a device control step,~~

[[and]] wherein if it is determined in said determination step that the external unit is a USB host unit in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, then said [[first]] device control step is selected in said selection step, so as to perform communication between the external unit and the information processing apparatus in said [[first]] device control step.

12. (previously presented): The control method according to claim 11, wherein the connection unit is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein, if a B type connector is connected with the connection unit, it is determined in said determination step that the external unit is the USB host unit.

13. (currently amended): The control method according to claim 10, ~~wherein said second control step is a host control step, and~~

wherein, if it is determined in said determination step that the external unit is a USB device unit in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, said ~~second~~ host control step is selected in said selection step, so as to perform

communication between the external unit and the information processing apparatus in said ~~second~~ host control step.

14. (previously presented): The control method according to claim 13, wherein the connection unit is an AB type connector in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein, if an A type connector is connected with the connection unit, it is determined in said determination step that the external unit is the USB device unit.

15. (currently amended): The control method according to claim 10, further comprising:

an execution status determination step of determining an execution status of said [[first]] device control step and said ~~second~~ host control step; and

a warning step of, if it is determined in said execution status determination step that said [[first]] device control step or said ~~second~~ host control step is in execution, and said control step, selected from said first step and said ~~second~~ host control step in correspondence with the type of the external unit determined in said determination step and controlling communication between the external unit and the information processing apparatus, is in execution, giving a warning to an operator of the information processing apparatus,

wherein, in said selection step, said control step that is in execution is selected as said control step of controlling communication between the external unit and the information processing apparatus.

16. (previously presented): The control method according to claim 15, wherein, if it is determined in said use status determination step that said control step in execution is no longer in execution, said control step that has been in execution is selected in said selection step as said control step of controlling communication between the external unit and the information processing apparatus.

17. (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium storing, in executable form, a control program for information processing apparatus for executing by means of a computer the control method according to claim 9.